

Amendments to the Claims:

1-39 (canceled)

39. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide having at least 80% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4;
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4, lacking its associated signal peptide; or
 - (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209256;
- wherein the polypeptide ~~encoded by said nucleic acid~~ is capable of stimulating proliferation of T-lymphocytes.

40. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 39 having at least 85% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4;
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4, lacking its associated signal peptide; or
 - (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209256;
- wherein the polypeptide ~~encoded by said nucleic acid~~ is capable of stimulating proliferation of T-lymphocytes.

41. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 39 having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4, lacking its associated signal peptide; or

(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209256;

wherein the polypeptide ~~encoded by said nucleic acid~~ is capable of stimulating proliferation of T-lymphocytes.

42. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 39 having at least 95% amino acid sequence identity to:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4, lacking its associated signal peptide; or

(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209256;

wherein the polypeptide ~~encoded by said nucleic acid~~ is capable of stimulating proliferation of T-lymphocytes.

43. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 39 having at least 99% amino acid sequence identity to:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4, lacking its associated signal peptide; or

(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209256;

wherein the polypeptide ~~encoded by said nucleic acid~~ is capable of stimulating proliferation of T-lymphocytes.

44. (previously presented) An isolated polypeptide comprising:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4, lacking its associated signal peptide; or

(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209256.

45. (previously presented) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 44 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4.

46. (previously presented) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 44 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4, lacking its associated signal peptide.

47. (canceled)

48. (canceled)

49. (previously presented) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 44 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209256.

50. (previously presented) A chimeric polypeptide comprising a polypeptide according to Claim 44 fused to a heterologous polypeptide.

51. (previously presented) The chimeric polypeptide of Claim 50, wherein said heterologous polypeptide is an epitope tag or an Fc region of an immunoglobulin.